

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC PRIORITY 9834

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 33098

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: CHAIRMANSHIP OF OECD MINISTERIAL

REFS: A. OECD 30944 B. STATE 289607

1. IN THE PERIOD SINCE WE SENT IN REF A, CONSENSUS HAS BEEN STEADILY DEVELOPING IN FAVOR OF GREEK CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF 1976 OECD MINISTERIAL. EFFORTS TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS UNTIL JANUARY HAVE MET STRONG RESISTANCE OF GREEK PERMREP WHOSE DESIRE FOR GREEK CHAIRMANSHIP HAS INCREASED IN WAKE OF HIS COUNTRY'S FAILURE TO SECURE SEAT IN CIEC. ELECTION IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR DEC 22 COUNCIL MEETING.

2. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT AT EC CAUCUS ON THIS QUESTION DOMINANT VIEW WAS THAT GREECE SHOULD BE GRANTED CHAIRMANSHIP. JAPANESE PERMREP HAS SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED THAT HE WILL NOT PURSUE JAPANESE CANDIDACY FURTHER IN LIGHT OF SUPPORT FOR GREEK. TO CONTINUE TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTION WOULD LEAD TO CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF US AS MAJOR OBSTACLE TO GREEK CANDIDACY.

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THEREFORE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE INTEND TO

AGREE TO GREEK CHAIRMANSHIP AT DEC 22 COUNCIL MEETING.

3. IN ANOTHER ELECTION OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT ON SAME DATE, UK PERMREP GALLAGHER WILL BE ELECTED TO FULL TERM AS CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT PERMREP LEVEL, WITH US AND JAPAN SLECTED AS VICE CHAIRMEN. US AND FRANCE WILL BE SELECTED AS VICE CHAIRMEN OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

4. WE HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION SURROUNDING GREEK CHAIRMANSHIP WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN.
TURNER

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